

FACT SHEET: ACADEMY NIGHT 2003

Congressman Joseph R. Pitts • Sixteenth Congressional District of Pennsylvania

Contact: Derek Karchner, Press Secretary, 202 225-2411

ACADEMY NIGHT

Congressman Joe Pitts (R, PA-16) will host the 7th Annual Academy Night at Conestoga Valley High School in Lancaster County on Wednesday, October 8, 2003 at 7:00 p.m. More than 200 people attend Academy Night each year.

Representatives from the United States Military Academy (West Point), the United States Naval Academy (Annapolis), the United States Air Force Academy (Colorado Springs), the United States Coast Guard Academy, and the United States Merchant Marine Academy will join the Congressman in introducing interested high school students, parents, and guidance counselors to the academies and provide advice on the nomination and appointment process.

With the exception of the Coast Guard Academy, each institution requires applicants to acquire a nomination in addition to their application.

Since 1998, Congressman Pitts has nominated a total of 99 students from the Sixteenth Congressional District to the service academies. Each year, he nominates an average of 30.6 students to the service academies. Of those 30.6, an average of:

- ✓ 16.5 are actually appointed (accepted) to a service academy.
- ✓ 2 are sent to a preparatory school.
- ✓ 4.5 are medically disqualified.
- ✓ 7.6 are not accepted for other reasons.

THE PROCESS

A student interested in applying to a service academy undergoes a strenuous evaluation process. In the spring, the applicant must start his or her application for each academy. He also sends an application for nomination to Congressman Pitts' office. In early autumn, Congressman Pitts accepts application packets.

In December the 16th District Academy Board interviews and screens applicants. The basic requirements are:

- ✓ At least seventeen, but not past twenty-third birthday on July 1 of the year admitted. For the Merchant Marine Academy, the age is no older than twenty-five;
- ✓ Be a United States citizen at the time of enrollment; and
- ✓ Be unmarried, not pregnant, nor have legal obligation to support dependents.

In addition to meeting these requirements, students nominated by Congressman Pitts must be residents of the 16th Congressional District. The qualifications for nomination are:

- ✓ SAT or ACT scores;
- ✓ High School Transcript that includes class rank and cumulative GPA;
- ✓ Completion of four-page application;
- ✓ 1-2 pages essay that changes each year;
- ✓ 2-5 letters of recommendation;
- ✓ Interview by the Academy Board.

In January, Congressman Pitts submits nomination forms to each academy. By April, academies have offered the majority of appointments and notified the majority of candidates regarding their final application status. Candidates must accept or decline their offers of appointment by June 1.